

*Barbara Sykes*

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*I realized that this is why I got into politics in the first place. I wanted to help the needs of citizens, and this was an opportunity to do that by running for the auditor's office."*

## This Strikes Us ...

*A Sojourner's Truth Editorial*

The political season will conclude in just a few brief weeks—November 7—and we will all be able to breathe a sigh of relief. After all, the race for 2008 won't begin until November 8. Just enough time to let all the political operators smell the instant coffee.

Whichever direction the voters head on Election Day, especially in the Ohio gubernatorial contest, we can already draw one conclusion from the events over the past few weeks. The Ken Blackwell campaign has, due to last minute desperation, sunk to the lowest of depths in its personal attacks on the Democratic opponent.

In the early days of the campaign, a Blackwell staffer was fired when he implied that Ted Strickland was gay. That was in those heady days when the Republicans thought they had a realistic chance to hold on to the governor's seat.

Civility has gone by the boards during these last days in the run-up to the election. Blackwell staffers and Ohio Republican operatives are speaking to newspapers and openly questioning Strickland's sexuality. Blackwell himself is doing the old Seinfeld shtick: "Not that there's anything wrong with that."

Not quite the old Seinfeld shtick actually. Blackwell's line is more like "not that there's anything wrong with that ... but."

Part of the issue revolves around a man who was on Strickland's staff in the late 1990's. This staffer was reportedly convicted of exposing himself to children 12 years prior to working for the congressman. The facts of the case are sealed—the conviction was expunged at some point.

Blackwell and his folks have latched on to the conviction in an attempt to appeal to the conservative base and their overriding concern with "values."

"What did Strickland know and when did he know it?" goes the refrain.

And that's just how easy it is to sling a little mud when nothing else seems to work.

The facts are, however, we don't know the facts.

For all we know, this fellow could have been urinating in a public place—it appears it could have happened when he was a student at Ohio's collegiate party capital of Athens—when he was charged with the offense.

Regardless of the severity of the offense, however, the following is the leap of logic the Republicans have asked voters to make.

One, the man exposed himself. Two, the man must be gay because only gay people would expose themselves. Three, if the man worked for Strickland, Strickland must have known he had exposed himself, and must, therefore, have known he was gay. Four, if a gay person worked for Strickland, why then, Strickland must be gay. Not that there's anything wrong with that ... but.

By the way, we're commenting on the Blackwell/Strickland race because it's close to home. Well, it *is* home actually. But races all over the nation bring out situations that just make you wanna holler, don't they? In Virginia, for example, Republican George Allen has been under attack because he used the N-word 30 years ago when he was in college. People were even found to testify to this fact ... 30 years later. Get lives, people!

As with everything else in American life, in life on earth, for that matter, standards change. We've certainly seen much worse from campaigners in the past. It is almost amusing today to read about the contest that author Kerwin C. Swint called the dirtiest campaign of all in his book titled—appropriately enough—"Mudslingers: The Top 25 Negative Political Campaigns of All Time."

The grand prize winner was George Wallace who, during his campaign for governor in 1970, mounted "the last openly racist campaign in America," wrote Swint. Wallace doctored photos of his opponent to show him with Nation of Islam leader Elijah Muhammad and boxer Muhammad Ali. He also called his opponent a "sissy" (that was in the days before "gay" became the politically correct term).

One ad showed a white girl surrounded by seven black boys under the heading "Wake Up Alabama! Blacks Vow to Take Over Alabama."

Well, we've come a ways since then. Now in Ohio, an African-American candidate has a viable chance to become the first black governor of a northern state. If he doesn't capture the prize this term, there is always 2010. It would make sense for him to conduct his campaigns with just a bit more dignity and stick to the issues that matter—that would be jobs, jobs and jobs—rather than trying to appeal to the lowest common denominator in the voting bloc.

## Community Calendar

### October 25

- Observe Breast Cancer Awareness Month: "Learn How to Protect Your Breast Health;" 7 to 8:30 pm; St. Luke's: 419-893-5923
- Lucas County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates for abused children): Public Informational Meeting; Reynolds Corner Library; 5:30 to 6:30 pm: 419-213-6753

### October 27

- End Time Christian Fellowship: 2 Holiness Concert; 7 pm; Featuring Tiffanie Campbell & TCM and Louis Self III; 419-472-5993
- Collingwood Arts Center: Haunted House Rock Show; 8 pm to midnight: 419-244-2787

### October 27-29

- Boy Scouts of America Erie Shores Council: Annual Halloween Party; Camp Miakonda on Sylvania Avenue; Friday and Saturday from 6 to 8:30 pm; Sunday from 2 to 4:30 pm: 419-241-7293

### October 28

- St. Paul Missionary Baptist: Faith Friday Celebration; 11 am to 3 pm; Open and free to the public: 419-246-2886
- Citywide Christian Trustee Association: Seminar on child abuse prevention and protection; United Missionary Baptist Church; 10 am to noon

### October 29

- Collingwood Arts Center Jazz Concert Series: Claude Black with Clifford Murphy and the Jean Holden Quartet; 6 pm; Pre-show reception at 5 pm: 419-244-2787
- Voices of United Choir: Musical Sunday at United Missionary Baptist Church; 4 pm: 419-380-9477

### October 30-November 1

- St. Paul Missionary Baptist "Fall Revival:" Every night the revival begins at 7 pm; Guest Evangelist Rev. Timothy Brinkley of Mt. Hermon: 419-246-2886

### November 2

- Fifth Annual Women's Conference: City of Toledo's Office of Affirmative Action/Contract Compliance

### November 3

- Fish Fry: Amazon Lodge #4; 11 am to 5 pm; Deliveries available on orders of 3 or more: 419-531-7079

### November 4-5

- Prescription Card Enrollment: Warren AME; Save 15 to 50 percent on prescription medications; Nov. 4—10 am to 3 pm; Nov. 5—1:30 to 3 pm

### November 5

- Toledo Interfaith Mass Choir: "Women in Red;" 6 pm; Greater St. Mary's Baptist Church (Rehearsals every Tuesday in October at 7 pm at St. Paul AME): 419-241-7332

### November 10

- ASSETS Toledo Spend the Evening Dancing Fundraiser: Civic Center Promenade; Dancing Under the Stars; Prizes in the categories of jazz, swing, ballroom and Latin dancing; 6 pm to 10 pm: 419-381-2721

### November 11

- Fall Music Festival: Featuring the UT Restoration Choir and the BGSU Gospel Choir; Third Baptist Church; 5 pm; Free of charge

### November 16

- League of Women Voters Public Town Hall: "Now that they're elected, can we keep them accountable?" Reception at 5 pm; discussion at 6 pm; Wyndham Hotel: 419-215-9367

### November 19

- Collingwood Arts Center Jazz Concert Series: Gene Parker and Nate Gurley; Show at 6 pm; Pre-show reception at 5 pm: 419-244-2787
- 49th Annual Ebony Fashion Fair: "Stylishly Hot;" Hosted by AKA Sorority, Inc; Benefit for scholarship and community service; 5 pm; Stranahan Theatre: 419-385-8376

### In Loving Memory of Rojai R. Hall



May 7, 1997—September 26, 2006

## Thank You

To friends, classmates and community, words cannot express our deep gratitude and appreciation for the overflow of love, support and sympathy shown following the loss of our beloved Rojai. God bless you all.

*If tears could build a stairway  
And memories a lane,  
I'd walk right up to heaven  
And bring you home again!*

Mother—Lisa Washington; Sister—Carmic; Brother—Jarrod; Father—Devon Hall; The Atkins, Hall & Snodgrass Families

## The Sojourner's Truth

Toledo's Truthful African-American  
Owned and Operated Newspaper

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**A Certified MBE, 2006**

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My View

By Jack Ford
The Truth's Political Columnist

Several years ago, a group of men from Toledo took up a collection to help place a marker on the grave of Martin Delaney, the great abolitionist newspaper editor who collaborated with Frederick Douglass.

Some of the locals gave were Myron Stewart and Vince Davis and a few others. We came up with around \$400 which we sent to some Cedarville College professors who spearheaded the grave marker project.

I am pleased to announce that the project is completed and the tombstone was recently dedicated at Massie Creek Cemetery right outside of Cedarville, OH, a few miles from Wilberforce, OH off Route 72.

Born to an enslaved father and a free mother, Martin Delaney grew up to be an inventor and a lawyer. He was a Harvard-educated physician as well as the publisher of a black newspaper.

During the Civil War, Delaney recruited thousands of black men into the Union Army. Delany himself was appointed to the rank of major and was the highest-ranking black field officer in the

Union Army.

Delany found his way to south central Ohio in 1864 to provide an education for his children. He died with little money and was buried in an unmarked grave in what was then called Tarbox Cemetery, named after a local family named Tarbox. The cemetery is now called Massie Creek and is a quaint country cemetery which you can easily miss if you are not looking closely for it. The ceremony dedicating the large 15-foot monument occurred on October 20 with representatives of the Prince Hall Masonry family as well as the Afro-American Cultural Center staff housed at Central State University which is right across the street from Wilberforce University.

As many of you might know, I lost my 96-year-old father, Henry Stanton Ford, last week. He lived a full life and remained active up to the last weeks of his life. He lived long enough to have known his grandfather - born in 1841 - and to see his great granddaughter - Kendra - born in 2006. Thanks to all of you for



your cards and flowers and thoughts. Each of your gifts and thoughts has meant a great deal to my family and me.

On To Politics:

We have five statewide ballot issues before us as well as the usual plethora of levies looking for tax support.

Issue 1 gives injured workers back some of the benefits which were legislated away by the Republican majority in Columbus. Injured workers need all the help they can get rather than the money earmarked for their assistance being used for "investments" and other uses by Noe and company. Vote yes on Issue

Issue 2 raises the minimum wage in Ohio from \$5.15 to \$6.85. Who can live on \$5.15 per hour? This will ensure the income, lifestyle and basic dignity for nearly 200,000 Ohioans. We need this - vote yes on Issue 2.

Issue 3 is the gambling plan for Ohio. It speaks to college tuition for every Ohio child but is clearly designed to bring in 31,500 slot machines to seven Ohio gaming establishments. After four years, Clevelanders only can vote for a casino. That will bring in another 108,000 problem gamblers to Ohio. Do we need that? Vote no on Issue 3.

Issue 4 allows for smoking in bars, bowling alleys and ventilated rooms in restaurants. It is a constitutional amendment. As a part of the constitution, it would trump

local decisions such as the Toledo and Bowling Green smoking bans. All you need to know about this constitutional amendment which refers to "smoking less" is that it is sponsored by R.J. Reynolds Company - the biggest of Big Tobacco. Please vote no on Issue 4.

Issue 5 places a statewide ban on smoking in public areas. It is targeted toward both primary smoke ingestion which clearly causes cancer but also toward secondary smoke which causes up to 200,000 cases of cancer per year. Please vote yes on Issue 5.

Local Issue - Let's support COSI. If we don't it closes.

County Auditor: Anita Lopez. We need a true watchdog in the hen house not another hen. Vote Lopez.

County Commissioner:

Ben Konop. Konop has the energy and the ideas to be a great commissioner. He will complement Pete Gerken and Tina Skeldon Wozniak as the third commissioner. He has a legal background which is presently missing on the Board of County Commissioners. Ben will be a watchdog on the county services delivery. Vote for Konop.

Toledo City Council: Bob Vasquez. The first choice is Vasquez. Married and the father of two young men, a homeowner in South Toledo who is an executive in a youth service organization, Bob is brother of not one but three Toledo police officers!

Do you believe he does not care about public safety? Bob finished just out of the win column the last time. Let's put him over the top this November.

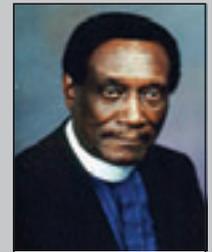
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North Ohio Annual Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

Special to The Truth

The Rev. Otis J. Gordon, Jr., pastor of Warren African Methodist Episcopal Church of Toledo, is host pastor for the 125th Session of the North Ohio Annual Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church's Third Episcopal District. The Right Rev. Robert Vaughn Webster, Third Episcopal District Presiding Bishop, will officiate at the conference, scheduled for October 25-29 at Warren

A.M.E. Church. About 1,000 pastors, ministers, delegates and members of the African Methodist Episcopal Church are expected in Toledo from throughout the conference district and beyond. The Clarion Hotel on Secor Ave. is the official hotel site. The Women's Missionary Society, under the Episcopal Supervision of the Rev. (Continued on Page 9)



Bishop Robert V. Webster

A Message from Michael Ashford

Toledo City Councilman and Toledo Zoo Board Member

On November 7th, I hope you will join me in voting FOR Issue 13 for The Toledo Zoo.



Michael Ashford and Dr. Anne Baker, new executive director of The Toledo Zoo.

Since joining the Zoo's Board of Directors earlier this year, I've been impressed with the Zoo's renewed commitment to diversity and addressing the needs of our community. The Zoo plays an important part in the lives of our children and families.

- Last year, more than 36,000 of our local school children experienced the Zoo through its FREE education programs.
An additional 50,000 local residents visited the Zoo at no cost. Lucas County residents benefit from FREE admissions each Monday when they arrive between 10 a.m. and noon.

While your ballot will say that Issue 13 is an additional tax, please remember it takes the place of a levy that expired in 2005.

Funds from Issue 13 will also be used to:

- Preserve the Aquarium and other historic buildings
Complete major repairs and maintenance
Implement ways to save energy and reduce utility costs
Reinvent the Children's Zoo so that kids and school groups can use it year-round, rain or shine

This levy is about helping take care of the Zoo we have now - not making the Zoo bigger.

Please, Vote FOR Issue 13.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Michael Ashford

PRESERVE Your ZOO FOR ISSUE 13

Paid for by Citizens Committee for The Zoo, Tom Anderson, Bruce Baumhower, Michael P. Bell, Tina Skeldon Wozniak, Alice Weber - Co-chairs, 2700 Broadway, Toledo, Ohio 43609.

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Food for Thought:

WHEREVER YOU SPEND YOUR MONEY IS WHERE YOU CREATE A JOB. IF YOU ARE BLACK AND THE BUSINESSES ARE RUN BY PEOPLE WHO AREN'T, THEN THOSE PEOPLE COME AND TAKE WEALTH TO THE COMMUNITIES IN WHICH THEY LIVE.

-Tony Brown

2550 Nebraska Avenue - Toledo, Ohio 43607
Phone: 419.534.2550 - Fax: 419.534.2570
www.houseofday.com

• Election News •

# He Said, She Said: Candidates for Lucas County Auditor Continue to Spar Over Property Appraisals and Political Ambitions

By Tamir A. Shaw  
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

As the percentage points separating the candidates for Lucas County Auditor continue to dwindle, The Sojourner's Truth conducted separate interviews with Lucas County Recorder, Democrat Anita Lopez, and current Lucas County Auditor, Republican Larry Kaczala.

Although both candidates renewed their commitment to serve the best interests of the citizens in Lucas County, they continue to be at odds over the best methods to employ in order to do so.

According to Lopez, there is a major problem with the current property appraisal system being used to determine property values in Lucas County; she believes that many residents' properties are being overvalued.

"As we go neighborhood to neighborhood in Lucas County the number one concern they had is they believe that their property has been

over valued consistently by the Auditor's office and that has equated into being overtaxed because any new levy is based upon the new value and will increase the amount the homeowner will pay," Lopez said.

"We believe we can do a better job, the current system includes homeowners after the appraisal process is done.

"We'll begin the valuation process in 2009 by including homeowners immediately. We're going to let them know that we're starting the revaluation process, we're going to educate them so they understand how we're determining the property value. Most citizens have no understanding or basic understanding unless they know a realtor well or unless they recently have just gone through the real estate process of selling their home on really how their values are determined. We need to make it in a format that citizens understand.



Anita Lopez

"Government needs to be transparent and it can not be anything hidden from the citizen's that we serve," she stressed.

Lopez further stated that contact with the homeowner prior to assigning the value is essential because some of the information that is currently available to the Auditor's office is incorrect.

"The person who has the most knowledge about their home is the home owner and so we should involve them and engage them and educate them as soon as possible on the information we need in

order to correct the value of the home," she said.

In a subsequent interview with Kaczala, he adamantly stood behind the job that his office has done saying that the methods his office employs are those required by the state which mandates the use of specifics procedures to prevent politics from playing a part in the assessment process.

With regard to the valuation of properties, Kaczala explained that it is not the office's job to appraise or assign the property values, but to confirm the data that is listed and if the home owner disagrees with the assigned value the do have the right to appeal.

"There are roughly 200,000 parcels of land in Lucas County and at a rate of \$300 for an appraisal, the cost would be \$60 million," Mr. Kaczala said.

He further explained that the county budget only allows an expenditure of roughly

\$10 per property.

Kaczala has been the Lucas County Auditor for the past 13 years and disagrees that there are a large number of properties being overvalued because the state's tax commission gives his office a figure that must be confirmed based on their records.

He explained that the rate was around \$25 billion for all properties during the last assessment period. The auditor's process takes comparable properties and equalizes their value.

Kaczala used the following example as an illustration: If you have row of three houses where the first owner paid \$110,000, the second paid \$100,000 and third paid \$90,000, the value of the homes would be equalized at \$100,000 each and that's what the owners would be taxed on.

Kaczala explained that the person who is asked to pay less or exactly the right amount



Larry Kaczala

wouldn't complain, but that the person asked to pay more tax would and that is where the board of revisions would step in to correct the over-taxation if the person can provide sufficient proof.

Lopez countered that the burden of proof should not be on the taxpayer, but that the Auditor's office should correct any problems before a tax bill is sent out.

"The appraisal takes place and then the valuation of the property is mailed to the citizen, the law that currently is written is that the burden is on

(Continued on Page 6)

# FREE TO BE FUNNY

MONDAY

8pm **EVERYBODY HATES CHRIS**

8:30 **ALL OF US**

9pm **GIRLFRIENDS**

9:30 **THE GAME**

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• Election News •

## Barbara Sykes: She'll Bring Style and Substance to the Statehouse

By Alan Abrams  
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

(CLEVELAND) From the second that Barbara Sykes exploded from the backstage area and walked confidently and triumphantly down the catwalk at the Democratic Party's All-Star Gala and Rally on the River here last Friday, she had the crowd of 1,000-plus energized and electrified.

A stunning knockout in pink, Sykes blended "Project Runway" with "Commander in Chief" as she set the stage for the Party's A-list ticket in the Cleveland Plain Dealer Pavilion on the Flats—against

a glittering backdrop of Cleveland's skyline. Moving with the grace and agility of a world class fashion model—which she could easily be—Sykes pumped up the audience with her powerful image and message.

The illuminated logo on the top of Key Bank's world headquarters was shimmering, but on this chilly night on the Cuyahoga River, Sykes' brilliant aura out dazzled any man-made competition. She is the state Democratic Party's secret weapon—their candi-

date for state auditor. Her rallying call resonated with every member of the partisan crowd as they cheered and waved their signs and placards. By the time she finished speaking, the audience was whipped wild with enthusiasm. Sykes ignited the party faithful and set them aflame for victory on Nov. 7.

It was the rare feeling one gets from being in the presence of a superstar. And make no mistake about it, Barbara Sykes shines with star power. She is clearly the Diva of the Democratic Party.

So why is she running for an office that historically has been among the lowest profile contests on the ballot? A large part of the answer can be found any day this week in a courtroom in the Lucas County Court House where the trial of Republican fundraiser Tom Noe is underway.

The scent of Republican political corruption has rewritten the textbook for Ohio political campaigns. The scan-

dal that resulted from the \$50 million investment in rare coins and collectibles sanctioned by Ohio's Bureau of Workers Compensation has made "audit" a political buzzword.

The incumbent state auditor, Wood County's Betty Montgomery, is bailing out in an attempt to win back her old job as state attorney general. And the state Democratic Party knew they had to run someone with a solid record of public service as both a legislator and an administrator if they wanted to win that office. So they looked to Barbara Sykes.

Here's the impressive resume they found: Sykes is currently serving her third term as a state representative, where she is the president of the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus. This is her second appearance on the statewide top ticket. Because the Democratic Party sought to make the ticket more diverse, they chose Sykes to be the Democratic nominee for state trea-



Barbara Sykes lights up Cleveland



Sykes with Marc Dann

surer in 1994. But a series of events propelled Ken Blackwell into the state treasurer's seat that year, and Sykes lost the election to Blackwell. He is the Ohio Republican Party's candidate for governor this year.

Sykes came to the attention of the state Democratic Party leaders two years earlier when she served as the

Ohio political director for the 1992 Clinton/Gore campaign. She was a member of the Akron City Council for six years and spent 12 years as the deputy auditor for Summit County. She has been widely credited with helping to clean up the corruption that resulted in the conviction of several county officials for financial

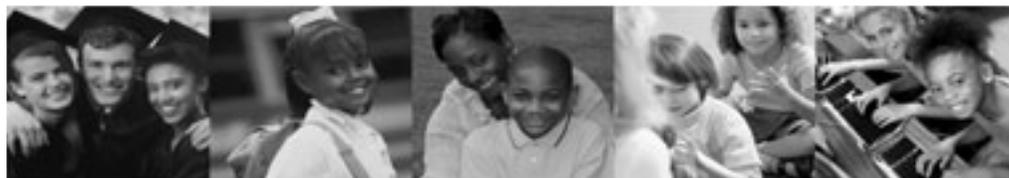
(Continued on Page 6)

# REAL COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY

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-  Yes Vote on Issue 3 guarantees more than \$850 million\* each year in college tuition grants for two million Ohio schoolchildren putting a college education within reach for every Ohio family.
-  \$227 million\* each year for economic development in all 88 Ohio counties.
-  31,934\* statewide construction jobs created by the building of new gaming facilities.
-  56,466\* new statewide permanent good paying jobs with healthcare benefits.
-  \$430 million\* in new salaries and wages for Ohio's working families.

By taking revenue from limited and regulated gaming at nine designated locations across the State, we can provide the opportunity for a college education to every Ohio student and create thousands of job opportunities for Ohio's working families.



A lot of GOOD will come of this

\* Strategic Partner Management Consulting study, Sept. 12, 2006



Paid for by Vote Yes on Issue 3 Committee, Thomas A. Rankin, Treasurer, 27 East Russell Street, Suite 300, Columbus OH 43215

## Barbara Sykes: She'll Bring Style and Substance to the Statehouse

(Continued from Page 5)

and other improprieties. Not a bad odyssey for the sharecropper's daughter who came to Ohio from her home state after she graduated from high school "because I just wanted to get out of Arkansas."

As we reminded her, so did Bill Clinton.

Earlier on the evening of the rally, as we sat in a car speeding across Cleveland to hook her up with the party's campaign bus outside of the House of Blues, Sojourner's Truth asked Sykes what motivated her to make the race this year.

"I had already made my decision that I wasn't going to run for a fourth term as state representative, when I was approached by people such as (Democratic Party National Chairman) Howard Dean and (US Representative and Democratic gubernatorial candidate) Ted Strickland to go on the ticket. I said I would think about it. I realized that this is why I got into politics in the first place. I wanted to help the needs of citizens, and this was an opportunity to do that by running for the auditor's office," Sykes replied.

She explained that given what Republican-led state agencies have done and are doing with taxpayer's money, it is essential to "bring back that level of trust" to state government.

Although Sykes earned her masters degree in public administration, she received her undergraduate degree as a social worker. She has successfully blended those two areas of expertise in a "total holistic approach to serving our citizens." As a social worker, it didn't take her long to realize that the power sat at the other end of the bargaining table. Blessed with her understanding of the fiscal and management side of issues, she was quickly able to make a difference where so many others had failed.

She was born in Holly Grove, Arkansas, in the heart of the Arkansas-Mississippi delta. Her parents, Willie and Nokomis Strong, worked very hard so that their eight children "could do better. My

father could not read or write, because when it was time for the harvest, you can't go to school because you were needed to help on the farm. My parents made sure we had a better life," said Sykes. Both her parents are deceased.

The husband of one of Sykes' sisters was in the military and was transferred to Akron. That was enough reason for Sykes to choose Akron and enroll in the University of Akron. When she came there, she said she was going to marry the first man who proposed to her. Thirty-one years later, she and her husband, Vernon Sykes, Ph. D., both find themselves on the Democratic ballot next month.

Vernon Sykes, who earned his MPA at Harvard, was a state representative for 18 years before he was forced to retire because of term limits in 2000. The following year, he joined Kent State University as a professor of political science. This year, he is seeking to keep the Sykes dynasty viable in the Legislative Assembly.

Barbara and Vernon Sykes are the parents of two children, daughter Emilia, whose 21st birthday present during the first week in January will hopefully be seeing them both take their oath of office in Columbus; and Stacy Sykes Cade. Believe it or not, Barbara Sykes is also the grandmother of young Hugh Cade.

Sykes sees a Democratic statewide victory next month as part of a "correction faction" in state politics. She points out that it happened to the Democrats as well when voters reacted to the "play for pay" scandals of Speaker Vern Riffe by handing the reins of leadership to the Republicans until they in turn - if the polls are to be believed - have apparently worn out their welcome. Sykes knows she is part of a political dream team that is being closely watched by the national media. Her Republican opponent is also a woman, and like Sykes, a state representative from Akron.

Sykes is motivated by a commitment to justice and to serve the people who elect her. It has almost become a formality for a candidate to talk about their desire to give back to the community, but Sykes is one candidate who backs up her words with deeds. She knows she has the potential of being a role model for a generation of African-American girls. You could see

it in how she inspired the precinct workers at an inner-city campaign headquarters, where she graciously thanked them for their time and effort, taking the time to meet and talk with them despite running late in her schedule.

What can you expect to see in a Sykes administration? One breakthrough will certainly be in the area of open records. She promises that will be a total departure from the policies of her predecessor. Now here's where Tom Noe fits into the mix. Although almost \$779,000 in taxpayers' money has been spent on audits, these have not been released to the public by Betty Montgomery, who maintains that audits conducted by private firms, although paid for with public funds, are not subject to the state's open records law.

Sykes introduced legislation this session to open the audits to the public. Her bill would repeal a 1991 law - sponsored by then-state senator Bob Ney - which makes the papers exempt from public disclosure. Ney, a Republican who at press time has still not resigned from the U.S. House of Representatives, pled guilty to federal conspiracy and fraud charges this month and faces a possible maximum 10-year prison sentence.

During March, Sykes appealed to Montgomery to release the audits. She was joined in her appeal by state senator Marc Dann, who now is the Democratic candidate for attorney general opposing Montgomery in the Nov. 7 election.

As we prepared to board the campaign bus, we asked Sykes what she likes to do in her spare time. She said she relaxes by watching television and admitted being a fan of "Grey's Anatomy" and of "Project Runway." The latter comes as no surprise; she is as fashion conscious as she is politically savvy.

As she walked up the steps of the bus to join Ted Stickland, Lee Fisher, Marc Dann, Jennifer Brunner, Richard Cordray and the others who were already aboard waiting for her, Sykes looked back, smiled, and said, "I'm going to bring some real style to the auditor's office."

## Candidates for Lucas County Auditor

(Continued from Page 4)

the tax payer, the citizen, to challenge what the auditor has listed and the current auditor, the Republican incumbent has said, well that's the law and this is the process and you do get an opportunity to participate in the process but its your responsibility to challenge me and get me the correct information and not one time during this campaign has he said we can do a better job.

"The burden should not be on the tax payer, this is the law, and my point of view as the Democratic candidate with Democratic values, I say there were laws on the books that were wrong from the beginning, but that doesn't mean that those laws should not be challenged and made better to serve citizens.

Kaczala said that his office may adjust 30,000 properties of all those assessed and that during his tenure, the office, which is also responsible for fiscal reporting and data processing, has received numerous awards from the state and national review boards in regards to the functions that it performs.

Both candidates are li-

held six different positions in the last 10 years and did not complete her term on the school board before running for Recorder and now one year in that office has decided to run for Auditor.

Lopez has also said that there needs to be greater diversity within the Auditor's office which she estimates has only five to six percent minority employees and if elected she will pursue that.

"We do believe that we need a system and a government that reflects the entire community," she said.

"I think that diverse minds, diverse ideas, diverse backgrounds in education and experiences need to be in that office. Kaczala said that is absurd to say that he is not committed to diversity and that his office which has more than 150 people in it does mirror the community he serves. Additionally, he said that the he must file reports with the Ohio Civil Rights Commission and that there have not been any problems identified in the past with the office's hiring patterns.

"I agree," said Lopez. "I believe that he initially started his career with a desire to improve things. Very idealistic, very optimistic, but after 13 years of being in that position his eyes are on another prize and that's to be one of the last appointments in Governor Taft's office. On the other hand I am committed to service and I still have the fire in my belly to serve."

Kaczala said that he has stated throughout the campaign that he has every intention of serving his full four-year term as auditor if elected. He however, does question Lopez's political ambitions because, he said, she has had



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## Collingwood Arts Center Hopes to Benefit from Alternative Energy

By John Dorsey  
Special to the Truth

The members of the Toledo City Bicycle Co-op will soon be taking to the streets in the name of art, as well as alternative energy. The group is holding its first bicycle ride/benefit, with the proceeds going to the Collingwood Arts Center's Lois M. Nelson Theatre November 11, 2006, starting at 8 a.m. and running until roughly 5 p.m.

The Co-op was founded over this past Summer by Old West End residents/postal carriers Robert Hannon, Andy Stepnick and Mark Heinzer to recycle, repair, and recondition used and unwanted bicycles. They also are hoping to make bicycles available free of charge to low income individuals who our willing to be part of their "Earn A Bike Program".

The program is used to promote the use of bicycles

as a means of transportation and to raise awareness of bicycling in general. It also aims to provide education to youths and young adults regarding bicycle maintenance, repair, and safety, as well as how to use available resources to best benefit the community.

"People who saw me ride my bike around the Old West End, kept asking who I rode with, and when I said nobody, and they asked why not, I just thought that was a very good question, and the bicycle club was born," said Robert Hannon.

The group was modeled after other successful co-ops in other cities; their collaborators visualize the practicality and usefulness of services that those groups, in Cleveland, Detroit, Oberlin and Chicago, offer city residents. They serve as an outlet for

the community's ordinary waste stream of helmets, related books, and maintenance videos, in addition to used bicycles. It's hoped that the events will help to expand the community, by getting involved in events such a parade, or even perhaps a bicycle related film.

Volunteers' hours, if they choose to give them, can be used to acquire equipment, amongst other things. However, members are not required to volunteer.

The ride, which is titled the First Annual (hope so) "Old West Ends" metric century, will be approximately 62 kilometers and will be fully mapped for all riders to easily navigate, complete with rest stations so riders can refuel with liquids and snacks.

The group is hoping to raise somewhere between \$1,100-\$1,500 though rider pledges, private donations, and the auction of works by prominent local artists. The hoped-for result will be a solar energy battery, which will be used to heat the Collingwood's historic 100-year-old theatre.

The art auction was put together by local artist and founder of the Laboratory For Creative Thought Inc. Terry A. Burton has put on a number of well-attended and well-received exhibits in the past, the most recent in

the Toledo area was at the downtown restaurant/bar Diva in June. Burton will feature in the benefit exhibit, with a piece created just for the event.

Also featured will be Andrea Baker, who is a Collingwood Arts Center resident, Detroit's Jack Johnson, who also had a show at Diva in May of this year, and was written about in both The Truth and the Toledo Free Press. Johnson has sold a large number of pieces, in addition to showing extensively in Detroit galleries.

Last but certainly not least, the auction will include a piece by Yusuf Lateef, who recently created the Community Heartbeats mural for North Toledo, with the help of his brother, local poet Imani Lateef, and under the direction of Lorna Gonsalves. The piece was created by Lateef a number of years ago, and donated to the auction by a private donor.

Each artist will be represented by a single piece. The minimum bid for the auction, which will be silent, is \$50.00. Bidding is set to begin around 6:30 pm after the ride has concluded in the Collingwood Arts Center's room C11 7. This will also be the site for an improvisational jam session to be held by local musicians. The auction will end at 9 p.m. All questions relating strictly to the silent auction should be directed to Terry A. Burton at (419) 345-7839. A preview of the available works can be viewed at [www.myspace.com/owebc](http://www.myspace.com/owebc)

Donors for the event, as of this writing, include Robert B's Restaurant, located at 2499 Collingwood Blvd. between Collingwood and Delaware, Downtown Latte, which is located at 44 S. St. Clair Street, and Democratic County Commissioner Candidate Ben Konop, amongst others.

All of the riders should gather to begin at the Agnes Reynolds Jackson Arboretum on the corner of



By Yusuf Lateef



By Jack Johnson



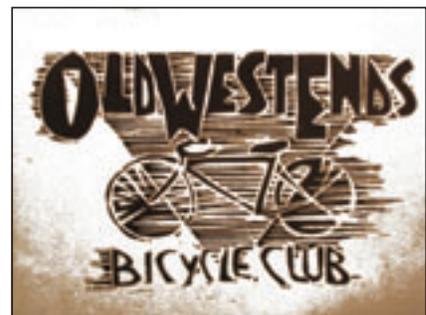
By Terry Burton

Robinwood and Delaware in Toledo, Ohio, with their pledge/donation forms completed. The ride will end at the Collingwood Arts Center.

Volunteers are always needed and appreciated. All inquiries should be directed to Robert Hannon at [rhannon@toast.net](mailto:rhannon@toast.net). All pledges/donations should be made payable to the Collingwood Arts Center.

Please state that the funds are to be directed to the bicycle benefit in your checks memo section, as a separate account has been set up for all raised funds.

For further information contact the Collingwood Arts Center at [www.collingwoodartscenter.org](http://www.collingwoodartscenter.org) or by calling (419) 244-2787 between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.



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**Space 237 Galleries & Studios**

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

According to the information provided by its literature, Space 237 Galleries & Studios, which held its grand opening last Friday evening, is "creating an art environment dedicated to all forms of art expression."

Music, art, performance, film and video will be a part of the offerings at the gallery at 237 N. Michigan, a four-floor structure with gallery spaces on both the first and the fourth floors.

The gallery will have a year-round consignment gift area – Intrinsic Space – and will hold two large exhibitions annually.

Two of the artists featured at last weekend's opening were Warren and Yolanda Woodberry, whose works have graced the pages of The Truth before.

Space 237 hours will be Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from noon to 4 p.m.

To contact the gallery, call 419-255-5117 or email at [www.space237.com](http://www.space237.com).



*Warren's The Dawn*



*Yolanda's Carribean Memories*



*Warren's Adam, Eve and Lilith*



**It's Official: To Get to Scott, Take Flute Rice Way**

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

Toledo City Councilman Michael Ashford joined the family and friends of the late, legendary Toledo Public Schools' educator and administrator, Flute Rice, last week to honor the man who was the first African-American principal of Scott High School.

Machen Street which borders the school will also bear the name Flute Rice Way.



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## My Network Premieres in the Toledo Area

*Sojourner's Truth Staff*

WMNT-TV, Channel 58 (Channel 48 on non-cable stations) premiered last month in the Toledo market. Partners Jerry Jones, president and general manager, and Jessie Weatherby, managing director, introduced the new station and its lineup at a grand opening ceremony at Showcase Cinemas in Maumee last week.

On hand to assist in the ceremonial duties were the Detroit Pistons Dance Team and a couple

of stars from shops in the new lineup: Alexandria Schlereth of Desire and James Black of Fashion House.

WMNT is part of a national network whose programming is sold to major groups such as FOX, Tribune, Young, Raycom and others.

The station will be broadcasting Detroit Pistons games as well as shows such as Art of Betrayal, Watch Over Me, Rules of Deception and Dangerous Love.



*James Black of Fashion House, Jerry Jones, Alexandria Schlereth of Desire*



*Detroit Pistons Dancing Team*



## North Ohio Annual Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

*(Continued from Page 3)*

Rowena Webster White, will host a banquet on Monday, preceding the conference. The Rev. Rose Stewart, pastor of Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church of Rossford, brings the Missionary Sermon at noon on October 24. The Missionary Night is at 7:00 p.m.

The conference officially opens with worship, sermon, and communion at 10:30 a.m. on October 25.

The local church welcoming will be held at 7:00 p.m. on October 25, featuring the Honorable Carleton Finkbeiner, Mayor of Toledo, and other community leaders. Following the welcoming service, Bishop Daune C. Tisdale, pastor of Friendship Baptist Church and Northern District Overseer in the State of Ohio of the Full Gospel Baptist Fellowship International, and the Toledo Interfaith Choir will participate in the Men's/Ecumenical Night. Additionally, the Lay Organization's Night of Praise and Worship is set for 7:00 p.m. on October 26. Reports on the State of the

Country and the State of the Church will be held in the afternoon in the conference on October 27, when the conference will give a position on contemporary issues facing our nation and government. Also, that evening at 7:00 p.m. is Wilberforce University and Payne Theological Seminary Night, featuring the Wilberforce University Choir. The Wilberforce University is the oldest of the nation's historically black colleges and universities. The Rev. Dr. Floyd Flake, former U.S. Congressman from New York, is the president of the A.M.E. University in Wilberforce, Ohio, the site of Payne Theological Seminary.

While the North Ohio Young People's Department is in session during the day on October 28, the annual Ordination Service will be held; Youth Night service follows at 7:00 p.m. The closing service with the reading of the appointments will be held at Warren A.M.E. Church at 3:00 p.m. on October 26.



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## A Pound of Flesh: Selling Your Creative Soul to the Hollywood Devil

By Andre L. Gaines  
Special to The Truth

Writing, acting and directing, these are the three creative positions in film and television that costs Hollywood billions of dollars year after year. You want some of that money – a million bucks will do – and at the same time you want to present yourself to the world through self-expression. But you live in Toledo. How do you do it? My answer: move.

Let me first say that I'm no expert. I produce one television show for Disney and have a host of semi-important credits that I have yet to report to the Internet Movie Database (IMDb). I'm a graduate of New York University Tisch School of the Arts that a bunch of famous people attended such as Spike Lee, Woody Allen, Oliver Stone, Martin Scorsese and Ang Lee, all of whom I don't know personally, except for maybe Spike, who I met in the elevator and who ran away from me as soon as his floor came. He later found out I had his class.

Before that, I went to Northwestern University, another acclaimed school of the arts, where I studied journalism and spent most of my time writing plays and acting in them. Even still, with a degree in hand, I spent a year working at Kinko's in Los Angeles before I got remotely close to working at Universal Studios, where as an intern, I made less than I did at Kinko's. I was 22 then. I'm 27 now and a respected young writer with a cadre of agents and lawyers negotiating my deals. It all seems so strange, but so far so good.

Know this, there is no stability in Hollywood. You cannot rely on a job, a deal, a handshake or a smile. Nothing is tangible, except the check, signed, sealed and delivered to your agent, who in turn takes his cut and delivers it to you. You can make \$200,000 in a month, then not get paid for another six, and have

to ration yourself like a dog that's been left a bowl full of Kibbles 'n Bits while the family takes a vacation. There are no guarantees, you can go in over your head with a film, even a short film, and the end result looks nothing more than a waste of time. Everyone's upset, you're to blame, you crawl up in a corner somewhere and rock back and forth until you find a happy place: Toledo.

But many people wouldn't mind having that level of responsibility, all they want to know is, how do I get in? The best way I can tell you is through experience. And considering I'm barely a prophete myself, it'll be fun to guide you through it simultaneously.

There are a couple of things you must understand before getting into the game. Technology is moving faster than talent. Meaning, any yahoo with an HD camera can go out and shoot people talking and call it a movie. But the best filmmakers, or artisans, are trained, those who have a background of getting hammered by professionals who've been working in the industry for a long time. This is especially true for black folks. You won't even get a foot in the door without surpassing your opponent by 150 percent.

If you're a creative amateur: actors have it the worst, directors have it fair and writer's have it the best. Why? Because actors audition, then wait for people to make decisions about their career, which can be based on any number of arbitrary variables, dress size, eye color. Directors can go out and make a movie, but it takes a lot of money and time to assemble a crew, edit the film professionally and reproduce copies to send off to festivals and get noticed. Writers however, writers control Hollywood, because without a script, no one can do business. Furthermore, sitting down to write doesn't cost you a thing – you rely on yourself, your facilities, and are free to move on to the next project without waiting for someone to say, "You got the part."

To get where you want to go is going to take you a good 10 years. But for the

artists, time is relative. You don't measure time in days and weeks, you measure in pages and frames. Not in months or years, but in octaves and brush strokes; until you reach perfection and ask yourself, how do I take this to the next level? Everyone has a different answer, but besides education, there's one common ingredient: networking.

The entertainment industry is not much different than any other industry. It just seems that way because the only actors, writers or directors you know are the ones you see in the cinemas or on television screens. If you want to be a doctor, you talk to your uncle. You want to be a banker, your brother's one, call him up. Being a working actor, writer or director seems nearly impossible. But it's not. Not if you network and meet people, not the right people, just people who do what you want to do and get paid doing it.

Meet them on golf courses, clubs, even strange showers and public Johns. However you can get to know people will be the key to your success. Need proof? Seen a crappy movie lately, or listened to a pretty pop-star who can't sing, and ever wonder, "How the hell did they make it sounding like they're choking on a chicken bone, and I'm still here frying chicken at Church's but can sing my ass off?" Networking, with training, and some talent that may barely exceed long flowing hair and lush eyelashes. Or they had a daddy who's responsible for making the careers of like a dozen moguls who now owe him a b-load of favors.

You're not that person. Matter of fact, you don't even know that person. This series of articles will hopefully, in some way, show you how to meet that person, and what to have prepared when you do.

*Ed. Note: Andre L. Gaines, a Toledo native, is a writer and producer for the Disney Channel. He lives in Los Angeles.*

## Dear Ryan,

I am getting started with a work-out program but I have arthritis and I don't know what exercises I should do. Should I not do certain exercises because of this condition? How beneficial will this be for me or could it make it worse?

Marie



## Dear Marie,

Several studies show that a regular exercise program is extremely beneficial for people suffering from arthritis. Of course you will be limited by your range of motion depending on how severe your condition is. DONOT give up! You will find yourself to be getting better as you continue to exercise regularly.

Your range of motion will increase and you won't be in as much pain as you used to be. I know that some doctors tell their patients that they should exercise and some do not. I could tell you my theory why some doctors don't tell you to exercise, but I don't think it would sit well with some people.

Are there any exercises that you shouldn't do? Well my advice is to try them all if it causes you pain then skip it and move on to something else. When you get more flexible and you're feeling less discomfort in your body then try it again. Do not try to go into your gym and do a lot on the first day you are there. Start very easily and then do more.

Start out with just the bar or just the first plate on the machine and go through the range of motion to see how you feel. If it is comfortable for you then by all means add a little bit of weight. Only do two sets of 12 until you are feeling well enough to do more. You will be a bit uncomfortable if you are not used to being too active.

I have this topical rub at my gym. It's the best stuff I've ever used and it works on muscles, joints, colds, burns, chapped skin and much more. I call it the super salve because it works so good on a lot of things.

Feel free to come and see me and I will give you, and anyone else out there, a few free samples of this stuff. Just rub it on your area that's bothering you and in minutes you will feel better. It's not a cure but if sure helps relieve the discomfort.

Well, Marie, good luck and don't hesitate to come get some FREE samples of the pain reliever. Good luck to all of you trying to achieve your Dream Bodies and don't forget to live a healthier lifestyle.

REMEMBER: Nothing changes unless you do something!

Ryan Rollison  
1240 W. Sylvania Ave.  
Toledo, Oh 43612  
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## This Holiday Season Be A Friend To Kids



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Many business offices, churches, schools and other civic organizations find the LCCS Holiday Gift Program the perfect way to give back to the community for the many blessings they enjoy. We invite you to do the same.

Whether you are able to sponsor 1 child or 100, you can make a difference. Your gift will bring a smile to the face of a child who right now has little to be happy about this holiday season.

Contact: **Sherry Dunn**,  
Friends of Lucas County Children Services,  
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# Barbara Sykes Brings her Campaign for State Auditor to Toledo

By Nadean Hamilton  
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

With less than a month to go before the election, State of Ohio Auditor candidate Barbara Sykes had lunch with a group of over 100 local women at Indiana Missionary Baptist Church on Saturday, October 14.

Sykes, a Democrat, told those in attendance that a sense of responsibility is what led her to get into the running for State Auditor, even after she had made the decision to retire from politics after 25 years of service.

"I had the opportunity to go to the University of Akron to major in social work, to get a master's degree in public administration. And I have a responsibility to give back to my community, to my city, to state, to my county, and that is what I am trying to do" said Sykes.

Sykes has served three terms as State Representative; she also served 12 years as deputy auditor for Summit County, six years on Akron City Council, where she was the first woman elected. Sykes also served as the Ohio political director for the 1992 Clinton/Gore campaign.

"We're at a crossroads here in Ohio with this election, and what's going to happen, and I say to you, if we don't turn things around with this election our state is go-

ing to be in an awful, awful, disastrous situation. "We have to turn things around in Ohio. We have to do it for the neediest of our citizens ... I got into politics to help the neediest of our citizens," said Sykes.

Sykes encouraged the audience to vote by absentee ballot so as to leave behind a paper trail, briefly alluding to the claim that Ken Blackwell suppressed the African-American vote during the 2004 presidential election.

If elected, Sykes says that her main primary goal will be to make sure that the state books are opened for public viewing, and that internal audits provide a report to the state auditor's office as well as internally so the state can keep track of the funds, something she says that did not occur with Tom Noe.

"See, with the Noe case, the internal auditors did report [the inconsistencies] long before this came out [publicly] but they gave the report to the executive director and it did not come outside of the walls of [BWC]. I am saying those reports are to go to the executive directors, but also to the state auditor's office; so that we can hold the auditor responsible for what has happened with the money," said Sykes.

"The other thing that I



Representatives Edna Brown and Barbara Sykes and Toledo City Councilwoman Wilma Brown

want to do is to start having more audits conducted by the staff of the auditor's office, as opposed to contracting out. Contracting out costs our local governments more money. When there is an audit in the city of Toledo, and it is done by a private firm, [Lucas] county is being charged with that, it doesn't come out the auditor's budget, if the county auditor's staff provides the audit, then you're charged, but a lot less, and if the state auditor's provide the audit then the work papers are open for the view of the public," Sykes added.

Sykes was introduced by State Representative Edna Brown, who along with Toledo City Councilwoman Wilma Brown co-sponsored the event.

"Actually I serve with Barbara in the House of Representatives, [so] I know what an outstanding and well qualified candidate she is, and I just thought it was necessary that I get her out before the women here in Toledo-Lucas County and let them see what a dynamic person she is, how qualified she is, and that she'll do an absolute outstanding job," said Edna Brown.

"And I trust that they [attendees] will go back and tell friends, relatives, and neighbors that this is the person

who should be the next auditor for the state of Ohio," Brown continued.

The group appeared to be receptive to Sykes message, as many of them wrote personal checks to contribute to her campaign.

Some of the groups in attendance included The Perry Burroughs Democratic Women's Club, The Toledo Chapter of the NAACP, National Health Alliance, The Toledo Chapter of the National Association of Negro Business & Professional Women's Club, Inc. and Top Ladies of Distinction.

There were also several public and elected officials on hand, including Judge Charles Doneghy, Toledo Clerk of Court, Vallie Bowman-English, Toledo City Councilwoman Lourdes Santiago, Lucas County Recorder Anita Lopez and State Representative Peter Ujvagi.

"I was really impressed, and in addition to that, I understand the importance of Barbara Sykes getting elected as state auditor because that board is very important as far as redistricting the lines, and the Republicans have had control every since ... I think our last Democratic Governor was Richard Celeste, and we must get back to that control in the State House," said Democratic activist June Boyd.



Barbara Tucker reads her poem about grandparents

# Top Ladies of Distinction Host 3rd Annual "Grandparents' Day" Luncheon

By Nadean Hamilton  
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

On Saturday, Oct. 7, approximately 40 grandparents, parents, children and community members gathered at Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church to honor six grandparents who have dedicated their lives to playing an active and supporting role in the lives of their grandchildren.

The event was organized by Top Ladies of Distinction, who began the program in 2003. Among those honored were Reverend Donald & Amanda Murray, began raising their six-year-old granddaughter after her mother died when the child was five months old.

"You cannot pick up a newspaper without [reading about] tragedies, and things that are ugly in the world," Rev. Murray told the crowd. "We have to protect our children, our schools, as well as our homes. So we as grandparents, parents and godparents have an awesome responsibility to care for these little ones, and at this time I want to thank everyone for this honor."

Other honorees included Paulette Oliver, Lela M. Traynum, Frances

Collins, Ph.D., and Mary Boyd. The honorees were presented plaques, and also received a free massage.

Several service organizations were on hand to provide a variety of information on services offered to local grandparents, including: Area Office on Aging, Kinship Navigator, and the R.S.V.P. program.

Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. is a national humanitarian and professional organization that was organized in 1964, at the urging of "Lady Bird" Johnson, wife of then-president Lyndon Baines Johnson. TLOD pursues broad objectives through its five major thrusts which include: Top Teens of America, Enhancing the Status of Women, Enhancing the Lives of Senior Citizens, Community Beautification, and Community Partnerships.

The event was sponsored by several individuals and community organizations including Lady Mary McKinley of ABC Health Care, Lady Carla Hodge of Dale-Riggs Funeral Home, Ladies Barbie Harrison, Delores M. Bates, Clara Brank, Wanda Terrell, and Barbara Tucker.



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# Who Are Toledo's Best Dressed Men?

We'll announce them on November 22 with a little help from our sponsors: Jack's Men's Wear; Glass City Black Brothers' United; The House of Day and NTS/American Business.

Got any suggestions? Call us at 419-243-0007 with your nominations or email [thetruthreporter@buckeye-access.com](mailto:thetruthreporter@buckeye-access.com).

## Genealogist "Burrows" Through Labyrinth of Family History to Trace Roots

By Geneva J. Chapman,  
Sojourner's Truth Reporter

Language, culture, names, religion and memory were lost in the bowels of slave ships where Africans of diverse tribes and nations lay chained together in cargo holds.

No records documented their countries of origin or tribal affiliations. Rather, they were stripped of their identities while being forced to lie in their own excrement, raped of their dignity and robbed of their humanity during one of the most insidious and cruelest types of mass indoctrination in the annals of history. Bereft of all that was familiar, they embraced their strange new lives as 'chattel' reluctantly. Without language, they learned the language of their captors and took the names of their owners to replace their own.

Unable to make lasting familial connections due to having mates and offspring torn from them and sold on auction blocks, they had no choice but to hold on to whatever memories of family they could, passing names and stories down generation after generation with bits and pieces forgotten over time until there was barely any connection with the past. Hence African-Americans' attempts to trace their genealogy are often a frustrating journey into an unknown past.

However, author of *Black Roots: A beginner's Guide to Tracing the African-American Family Tree*, Tony Burroughs, offers guidance through the maze of family history, document searches and dead ends African-Americans wishing to make the trip may encounter.

The Toledo-Lucas County Public Library presented Burroughs in a workshop on African-American genealogy, Saturday, October 7, 2006, at the Main Branch.

Attended by approximately 50-75 amateur genealogists and library enthusiasts, the event was an all-day affair that included a box lunch and a book signing.

Using his own search to demonstrate the methods used for genealogical study, Burroughs, who has traced his family back seven generations, covered several topics throughout the daylong workshop.

Topics covered included: tracing the family tree; researching cemeteries, funeral homes and vital records; locating obituaries for African-Americans and researching census records.

Burroughs began his multi-media presentation

with a brief history of how he got involved in studying genealogy. "I was in college at Southern Illinois University back in the 1960's - that's when I first heard the word, 'genealogy,'" said Burroughs.

He reminded his audience that 'back in the day,' instead of a whole month, African-American History was only celebrated for a week. "We had five days - period. But we tried to maximize those five days," he said, recalling one year in particular.

"The keynote speaker that Friday was Alex Haley. That was 1969. *Roots* wasn't published until 1976. We didn't bring him down to talk about *Roots*. We brought him to talk about *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*. He talked about Kunte Kinte and Chicken George. White people weren't even talking about genealogy in the 1960's." Burroughs shared that the genealogical boom in places as far away as Great Britain started with Alex Haley and *Roots*. "I never had any idea that someone could trace their mother, grandmother and great-grandmother all the way back to Africa. I said, 'I want to do that before I die.' I had no idea I would spend the rest of my life doing it."

Burroughs' search began with some discussions with his father's mother and other relatives who knew the family history. Through these discussions, he found out that a photo he'd seen all of his life was of his grandmother's grandmother and that her family had come to Chicago in 1887.

Encouraged by what he'd learned about his father's side of the family, Burroughs said he asked his mother about her grandmother and got a surprising response. "I hate my grandmother! my mother said. 'I hate her because she gave my mother away, put her in foster care so she could gallivant around and party.'"

So, Burroughs went to the family 'griot' on his mother's side, his Aunt Doris, his mother's older sister, who gave him a ton of information about their family's history. He eventually went to Pittsburgh and talked to his 74-year-old cousin, Jim Truman, whose memory went back to when he was four-years old. Using a tape recorder, Burroughs collected a wealth of family stories about some very colorful relatives, particularly his grandmother, Aunt Doris and Truman's grandfather, William Terrell, a 'gun-toting

O.G. ('old gangsta') who spent some time in prison.

However, when Burroughs asked his mother and Aunt Doris about their grandfather, he found out not everything his cousin had told him could be substantiated.

"The first step in genealogy is talking to those older people," he advised workshop participants. "Their story is not on the Internet." He also cautioned that research needs to be done because, like his cousin, Jim, some older relatives may embellish some of their family stories.

Census records, archives and other records should be researched when collecting family history. "Sometimes when we do research, we don't find our ancestors, but not because they're not there," said Burroughs. "This research requires patience and meticulous attention to detail."

When he researched the stories his cousin told about his grandfather, he found out some of them were actually true. He showed the information he found to his mother and her sister, Doris. "Neither of them knew that he'd been in the penitentiary," said Burroughs. "They had no idea why."

Burroughs did more extensive research and found a full-page description of his great-grandfather, William Terrell; including the fact that he had a bullet wound in his chest and that he was charged with assault and attempted murder.

"He did try to kill somebody and it seems like it was the shootout at the O.K. Corral," said Burroughs. "I made a printout of the page and drove home. I showed my mother and she was stunned. I showed her older sister and she was stunned."

Burroughs decided to go back to Pennsylvania to find out what happened. He found a newspaper article with the headline "Negro Gets in Trouble" and knew he'd found what he was looking for. "I said, 'Yep, those are my people!'"

The article described an incident that started with a bar fight and ended with Terrell shooting someone, getting shot by the constable who Terrell then shot and nearly got lynched in the process.

"There were headlines in the newspapers for two weeks!" said Burroughs, who called his mother to tell her he was coming over with what he'd found. "I told her, 'I got a ton of information.

Call your sister and tell her to meet at your place 'cause I'm only going through this one time.'"

Burroughs told his mother and aunt that their grandmother had to go to work as a live-in maid for a white family and sent her children to live with some in-laws who had means.

"They never knew until I tracked it down almost 100 years later," he said. "I realized my mother hated her grandmother for the wrong reason; because she didn't know her family history."

In addition to numerous examples of his own family history, Burroughs offered a wealth of advice to workshop participants. "There are rules of genealogy just like there are rules of law," he cautioned. "The very first question you must ask is where did this information come from," he said, adding that sources are either 'primary' or 'secondary.'

"You have to ask that about every piece of information you have. The best available



Tony Burroughs

evidence is evidence created close to the time an event occurred. We are doing research on our ancestors and writing their biographies. Our objective is not to trace our ancestors back to Africa. Our objective is to write our ancestors biography. If we trace our ancestors back to Africa, that's a bonus."

He suggested interviewing older relatives multiple

times and recording these conversations digitally, so they can be put into a computer. "Two things taping will do," he said. "One thing, it gives you an accurate account."

Adding that those recordings should be transcribed as well, he said they are also great to play back on special days. "It's like having your

(Continued on Page 13)

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# Genealogist "Burrows" Through Labyrinth of Family History to Trace Roots

(Continued from Page 12)

relatives there," he said. "You'll realize you have more information than you realize because you have stuff buried on those tapes."

Other sources of family history include family archives that may be found in attics and basements, trunks, shoeboxes, dresser drawers, bookcases and the family Bible - with a caveat. "Just because it's in the good book, doesn't make it true," he cautioned. "We need to take that information with a grain of salt."

He suggested analyzing dates and handwriting and looking at the copyright date of the Bible. Other items that may be used include newspaper clippings, baptismal records, driver's licenses, postcards, insurance policies, marriage licenses, anniversary notices, divorce records, military records, death certificates and obituaries.

Discussing the importance of family photos, Burroughs encouraged workshop participants to write names of people appearing in a particular photograph on the back, along with the time, event and date, using a number two pencil.

"Once you pass away, your kids will not know who those people are," he said. Burroughs also encouraged participants to write their own autobiography to add to their family's records. "You'll find out it's a very liberating experience," he said. "After you do your oral interviews, after you look at your family records, the next step is to go to the family cemetery."

Due to the segregation of cemeteries, bad record keeping and a number of other factors, Burroughs said it might be difficult to find where some African-Americans are buried. He added that funeral homes also serve as good

sources of information. "In addition to the cemetery, you need to also go to the funeral homes," he said. "The funeral home has different records than the cemetery." Burroughs suggested asking for a photocopy of any record discovered, front and back.

Once while looking at a family record in a Detroit funeral home, Burroughs found a list on the back of everyone who was picked up for the funeral, along with their relationship to the deceased. "When looking for black folks, you look at black funeral homes, but you also look at white funeral homes," he said. "Black funeral homes did not keep records under the name of the deceased. They were kept under the names of whoever paid for the funeral." Burroughs had a surefire way of identifying a black funeral record in a white funeral home. "How do you know if it was a black funeral? You know it was a black funeral if the funeral was held two weeks after the date of death!"

Workshop participants laughed knowingly, while Burroughs pointed to a death certificate projected onto a screen in the Main Library's MacMaster Auditorium. He shared his confusion when he read the letters "ed" next to the word "color" on his grandmother, Mary Burroughs' death certificate. "'Ed' means color-ed. That means she's colored," he said.

He pointed out that death certificates are notorious for having wrong information, such as his grandmother's mother's name, which was listed on the death certificate as 'Mary,' when it was actually 'Martha.'

Burroughs also talked about the importance of using obituaries, from newspapers, not funeral programs,

often found in African-American newspapers, of which there were over 6,000. "Also, you cannot forget the local newspaper in town," he said. "We've been talking about African-American newspapers, but you can't forget the local newspapers."

He told a story about how he was able to locate a relative based on a physical description and information that she was a teacher at the Tuskegee University in Alabama. Using this scant information, he was able to find out her name, and from her obituary, he obtained the names of a number of relatives, several of which he has since contacted and talked to and several that he visits regularly. "Another source, although painful," he said, "is the record of lynchings. Ralph Ginsburg recorded over 5,000 lynchings in the U.S."

Burroughs departed from his quiet, professorial demeanor momentarily to launch into a brief tirade about lynchings of African-Americans.

"Did it ever occur to you when you go to do your family history and your aunt said she didn't remember or didn't want to talk about it that it was because someone got lynched?" he asked. Using the headline of an article from June 15, 1927, titled "Outspoken Negro Killed," Burroughs dispelled a persistent myth about the lynching of African-American men.

"The number one reason for lynching was disputes at the workplace," he said, adding that research by the NAACP and groundbreaking journalist Ida B. Wells, told the real story about why Af-

frican-Americans were lynched, which had more to do with sharecroppers arguing with white landowners about money that was owed them than 'whistling at' or 'raping' white women. "They were lynched and hung up in the public squares so their relatives could see them and be intimidated and not speak up for their wages. It wasn't lynching at all. It was terrorism! So, don't buy that 'raping white women' stuff."

Burroughs said there is a huge collection of newspaper clippings of lynchings at Tuskegee University. "The NAACP files of records of lynchings are at the Library of Congress," he said. "There are 15 reels of clippings on lynchings from 1899 to 1966."

Resuming his role as teacher, Burroughs told workshop participants to write on the backs of photocopies of obituaries the name, date and edition of the newspaper, as well as where it was located.

"If you have obituaries from newspapers, you should photocopy them on acid-free paper because that acid-free paper will last longer than those obituaries," he said. He told a story about 'Old Uncle Dave', who was a family legend. "The obituary said that 'Old Uncle Dave' was the oldest man in Pennsylvania - that he died at 107 [years of age]," said Burroughs.

However, further research indicated that 'Old Uncle Dave's' birth date wasn't early enough for him to be 107. "He was probably about 93 years-old."

Burroughs also spent some time discussing the use of census records to research family history. "A census was

taken for Congress to decide how many people and what districts go to the House of Representatives," he said. "The election we're having next month is to determine how many people go to the House of Representatives based on the census that was taken in 2000." There is a wealth of genealogical information available in census records, including: name, age, date and place of birth, address, occupation, marital status, numbers and ages of children and, in some older records, whether or not one owned a radio. However, Burroughs cautioned that there are often inaccuracies in census records due to poor collection of data by census takers. "Everything in a census we have to take with a grain of salt," he said. "We don't know who answered the questions."

Census records may be located in the Library of Congress, as well as online at sites such as Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org (Mormon records), USGENWEB.org and HeritageQuest, often for a fee. (Library cardholders may access HeritageQuest through the library's database free of charge.)

"There are a lot of other things you should do before you look at census records," said Burroughs. "You need to go through that process and exhaust all those sources before you look at census records."

Burroughs also suggested, in addition to all previously mentioned sources, researching city directories (used prior to telephone directories), social security records and social security death index. He also had advice to those wanting to search slave records. "Unless you research everything we've talked about today, you're not going to be ready to look at slave records," he said.

Participants took advantage of the opportunity to ask the genealogical expert questions about their own particular searches, often elaborating on information he'd already given. Many showed up with documents, photo albums and other evidence of their own searches.

Nazaraah Bey came equipped with family record for both her and her husband's family, reflecting her extensive research. During a break, Yolanda Durden, Doris Greer, Brett Collins and Marlon Barbour shared insights they'd gotten during the workshop, as well as information they'd researched on their own individual family histories. Durden shared

that she learned at a family reunion that she shares her middle name with a cousin.

Greer talked about learning that vast plots of land are owned by her family down south and how she's not sure how that land was acquired. Collins commented on learning at the workshop the amount of work that goes into genealogical research. Barbour talked about how his grandfather's family was one of several affluent black families in Georgia who owned land and hired people to work for them.

One of these black families paid to have some cotton stored in a white landowner's barn and went to collect it. "I came to collect the 100 bales of cotton you stored for me," he said. "You have 50 bales of cotton here," said the white landowner. "No, I have a hundred," insisted the black man.

Later, Barbour's grandfather said, this man and his son were lynched. Barbour's grandfather then sent his sons to Ohio and Michigan to buy some property and the family moved north. Barbour lives in one of the homes that they first bought when they moved to Toledo.

This story, confirming the primary reason Burroughs gave for the thousands of lynchings of African-Americans in this country, brought home the unique genealogy of those of slave ancestry that includes acts of terrorism that occurred long before September 11, 2001.

However, Burroughs' workshop did not end on a somber note. Looking at occupations listed on census records displayed on the large screen, he noted such sundry lines of work as 'gambler,' 'prostitute' and 'pimp.' One listed an individual's 'occupation' as 'does nothing.' There was also one very unique listing. "How you think those census takers felt when they looked in the census report and it said she didn't provide any answers because she was an 'old hag and refused to answer!'"

Approached by one of the workshop participants who asked about the possibility of starting an African-American Genealogical Society in Toledo, Burroughs put the question to the rest of the workshop participants and the library staff, all who seemed enthused at the prospect of continuing to fan the flames of the genealogical fire started by Burroughs October 7.

Following the workshop, Burroughs signed copies of his book, which may be purchased online or checked out of the library.

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## My View

(Continued from page 3)

**Judge of Lucas County Common Pleas Court:** Charles Doneghy. Judge Doneghy has been a judge for a decade. He is universally respected, he knows what he is doing. Enough said.

**Judge on the Court of Appeals:** Tom Osowik. Judge Osowik handled the priest case - Father Robinson - and the Noe conduit case, as well as the current Noe matter. He has

exemplified great judicial traits in tough situations. He deserves election to the second highest court in Ohio - the court of appeals.

**Statewide:** Governor - Ted Strickland; Lt. Governor - Lee Fisher; Auditor - Barbara Sykes; Secretary of State - Jennifer Brunner; Treasurer - Richard Cordray; Supreme Court Justice - Ben Espy; Supreme Court Justice - William O'Neill

## Public Notice

The public is hereby invited to review and comment on the proposed program year 2007, the Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) plan for the Economic Opportunity Planning Association of Greater Toledo, Inc. (EOPA). The plan may be reviewed at EOPA's office located at 505 Hamilton St. Toledo, Ohio, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 am to 5 pm. Comments should be mailed or submitted to the above office before November 10, 2006. All comments will be kept on file and will be open for public review. For further information, contact Bernard Culp at (419) 242-7304, Ext. 206.

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**WALK-THRU DATE October 31 @ 10:00am**  
**BID OPENING DATE November 7 @ 11:00am**

Contract Documents and Technical Specifications will be available on Tuesday, October 10, 2006, at 201 Belmont Street, in the Modernization Department (419- 259-9462), and will be provided upon request. A **non-refundable** fee of **\$20.00** will be charged for each set of plans provided. All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor conference room on the dates shown above, in the Modernization Department.

Each bid will require a bid guarantee as described in the contract documents.

**The prevailing wages for this locality, as established by the Department of Labor as Wage Determination OH20030028, as modified, must be paid all persons employed for this work.**

All bidders shall be required to meet the Affirmative Action requirements and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. Each bidder must insure that all employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, handicap, age, or ancestry.

LUCAS METROPOLITAN HOUSING AUTHORITY  
MODERNIZATION DIVISION

**Job Developer**

Energetic, dependable, team player needed to call on businesses in the Toledo area to develop job opportunities for clients. Requires Bachelor's degree in marketing or business, plus 1 year sales/marketing experience; or Associate's degree, plus one year vocational rehabilitation experience; or 3 years successful outside sales, marketing, or job recruitment experience. Duties include providing job development services to clients linked with funding sources, marketing program and resources to area employers, and actively developing job opportunities for the unemployed. Valid driver's license and good driving record required. Must be proficient and accurate in computer use. Send resume with cover letter and salary requirements by 11/1/06 to

Harbor Behavioral Healthcare,  
Attn: Human Resources (JD),  
4334 Secor Rd.,  
Toledo, OH 43623-4234,  
or fax to 419-720-6103,  
or e-mail harborhr@harbor.org.

EOE.

**Vocational Coordinator/Mentor**

Seeking a dedicated professional to provide job coaching and job development services for clients. Requires Bachelor's degree with 1 year work experience; or Associate's degree plus 2 years vocational rehabilitation experience; or 3 years experience teaching, training, supervising or providing vocational rehabilitation services. Duties include providing job coaching, work adjustment, and re-training services; analyzing jobs and work environments; working with adults to promote positive work behaviors; and providing follow along/support services to clients. Must be proficient and accurate in computer use. Valid driver's license and good driving record required. Send resume with cover letter and salary expectations by 11/1/06 to

Harbor Behavioral Healthcare,  
Attn: Human Resources (VCM),  
4334 Secor Rd.,  
Toledo, OH 43623-4234,  
or fax to 419-720-6103,  
or e-mail to harborhr@harbor.org.

EOE.

**Employment Opportunities!!**

**Director, Senior Center.** A 35-hour per week position, which is responsible for planning program development, program activities, and program evaluation and to provide administrative leadership for day-to-day operations. B.S. in Social Work or an equivalent field is strongly preferred or 2-5 years experience in managing programs or working in the Social Work field. Excellent writing, oral and computer skills are required. Salary range \$24K-\$32K yearly plus benefits. Please send resume and cover letter by October 31, 2006.

**Executive Assistant.** A 1.0 FTE position, which provides Administrative support to the President/CEO. Must have extensive computer skills and business acumen. Ability to handle confidential work with tact and discretion. A Bachelor's degree is highly recommended and/or 3 years experience in an administrative position. Salary range \$27K-35K yearly plus benefits. Please send resume and cover letter by October 31, 2006.

**Job Developer/Job Coach.** A 1.0 FTE position responsible for development of employment and work experience sites. Collect and maintain data on clients and monitor participants on work sites. Experience in job placement and follow-up (retention) is a plus. Excellent writing, oral and computer skills are needed. An A.S. or B.S. in business or relevant field is preferred. Salary range \$21K-29K yearly plus benefits. Please send resume and cover letter by October 31, 2006.

**Job Trainer.** A 1.0 FTE position responsible for assisting in the development and implementation of curriculum. Excellent organizational, planning, computer, writing, and oral skills are requested. B.S. in Business or Education or relevant field is needed. Salary range \$22K-30K yearly plus benefits. Please send resume and cover letter by October 31, 2006.

**Outreach Coordinator.** A 1.0 FTE position working in program to assist adults who have been sanctioned or placed on monthly monitoring or referred by D.H.S. or Child Support Enforcement Agency. B.A. or Masters in Social Work or an equivalent field is strongly desired. Excellent writing, oral and computer skills are needed. Knowledge of Lucas County's social service delivery system is a plus. Salary range \$26K-\$30K yearly plus benefits. Please send resume and cover letter by October 31, 2006.

**Secretary.** A 1.0 FTE position, which provides Clerical Data Entry support to staff and performs reception duties. A.S. in a related field and/or two years experience in a clerical position is preferred. Excellent computer skills needed. Salary range \$18K-\$22K yearly plus benefits. Please send resume and cover letter by October 31, 2006.

If interested in any of the positions, send information to:

Johnny M. Mickler, Sr., President/CEO  
Greater Toledo Urban League, Inc.  
608 Madison Avenue, Suite 1525  
Toledo, Ohio 43604

**Single Family Home**

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**Non-smoking mother of three Will provide child care**

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References available

**Image Is Important – Clothes Make the Man**

**So who are the best-dressed men in the Toledo area?**

If there is someone you think should be nominated for that honor, contact us at 419-243-0007 or email [thetruthreporter@buckeye-access](mailto:thetruthreporter@buckeye-access.com) with your insight

Results will be published in late November

91st Annual Toledo Branch NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet

Sojourner's Truth Staff

The Toledo Branch NAACP held its 91st Annual Freedom Fund Banquet on Friday evening October 13 at the Pinnacle and in this most important election year, Ben Espy, candidate for Ohio Supreme Court, gave the keynote address to the supporters of the civil rights organization.

Toledo Mayor Carty Finkbeiner and U.S. Representative Marcy Kaptur welcomed the audience and sixth-grader Tanasio Loudemill enthralled the diners with his rendition of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

Espy has received endorsements from the major daily newspapers in Akron, Dayton and Cincinnati thus far. He also received the "highest recommendation" from the Cleveland Bar Association. Should Espy win, he may very well be the only Democrat on the seven-panel

court. "I'm used to being in the minority, I was in the minority in the Senate for 10 years. They need a Democrat [on the Supreme Court] just to try to influence the vote," Espy told The Truth. "We bring a set of values that they don't even consider," he said of the seated Republicans.

This year's award recipients were: Judge Charles Doneghy, President's Outstanding NAACP Lifetime Achievement Award; Doni Miller, Outstanding Community Health Services Provider; Eric Walker, Outstanding Employment Service Administrator; Tanasio Loudemill, NAACP Outstanding Junior Talent and Donna Hughes, Outstanding ACT-SO Achievement 2006.

Yvonne Harper is the chairman of the NAACP Freedom Fund and second vice president of the local NAACP chapter. WilliAnn Moore is the Toledo Branch president.



Ben Espy and Lucas County Recorder Anita Lopez



Yvonne Harper, NAACP President WilliAnn Moore and Toledo Federation of Teachers President Fran Lawrence



State Senator Teresa Fedor and Commissioner Tina Skeldon Wozniak



UT's Sam Hancock and Shanda Gore



Lucas County Clerk of Courts Bernie Quilter, Councilman Michael Ashford and Bob Vasquez



Mayor Carty Finkbeiner and Espy



Yulanda McCarty Harris (c.) with Gloria and George Hilliard



First Lady Amy Finkbeiner and Cheryl Folsom Tyler



Espy with State Representative Edna Brown (l) and Councilwoman Wilma Brown



Ben and Kathlyne Espy

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